

Claims

1. An elevator system, comprising:

a group of elevators (26-29) serving a selected plurality of floors of a building, which may be all or less than all of the floors of the building, from a plurality of corresponding elevator lobbies around which the elevators are disposed;

characterized by:

an elevator identifier disposed adjacent each elevator of the group on each floor, said elevator identifiers each emitting a unique sound;

at least one floor selection station (39a), on at least a main lobby floor at one or more positions which may be at or near an entrance to an elevator lobby, or within an elevator lobby, each having one or more switch buttons (45-51, 70, 93); and

means responsive to operation of one of said buttons one or more times to identify a choice selected from (a) a destination floor and (b) a group of related floors including a destination floor, for determining that one of said elevators has been assigned to respond to one or more floors identified as said choice, and to thereafter cause a sound uniquely identified with said choice to be emitted (i) at said station and (ii) at the one of said elevator identifiers, on the same floor as said station, adjacent to said one of said elevators assigned to serve said one or more floors identified as said choice.

2. A system according to claim 1 wherein:

there are a plurality of buttons, each button having an indication in Braille identifying said choice.

3. A system according to claim 2 wherein:

each said button relates to a group of related floors.

4. A system according to claim 2 wherein:

each said button relates to an individual floor.

5. A system according to claim 1 wherein:

there is one button; and

said means includes means responsive to operation of said one button a first time to begin verbally announcing, in sequence, choices selected from (a) individual destination floors and (b) groups of related floors, and responsive to operation of said one button a second time to identify as said choice the last announced (i) floor or (ii) group of related floors.

6. A system according to claim 5 wherein:

said means announces groups of related floors during up-peak and individual floors during off-peak.

7. A system according to claim 1 wherein:

said sound comprises one or more tones.

8. A system according to claim 1 wherein:

each said sound is permanently assigned to a corresponding elevator.

9. A system according to claim 1 wherein:

each said sound is permanently assigned to one of said groups of floors.